

**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018
5:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to the proper notification, the Durham City Council held a Special Meeting on the above date and time in the Council Chambers at 101 City Hall Plaza with the following members present: Mayor Steve Schewel, Mayor Pro Tempore Jillian Johnson and Council Members Vernetta Alston, DeDreana Freeman, Mark-Anthony Middleton and Charlie Reece. Absent: None.

Present: Mayor Steve Schewel, Mayor Pro Tempore Jillian Johnson and Council Members Vernetta Alston, DeDreana Freeman, Mark-Anthony Middleton, Charlie Reece.

Also in attendance: Deputy City Manager Bo Ferguson and Acting City Clerk Diana Schreiber.

Mayor Schewel called the meeting to order; explained the guidelines for filling the At-Large Council Vacancy (45 minutes comprised of 2 minutes for self- introduction, 7 minutes to Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson, 7 minutes to Council Member Reece, 8 minutes to each Council Members Middleton, Freeman and Alston and culminating with 5 minutes allocated to Mayor Schewel); and announced the following schedule:

5:00 p.m.	Pilar Rocha-Goldberg
5:45 p.m.	Kaaren Haldeman
6:30 p.m.	Break
6:35 p.m.	Pierce Freelon
7:20 p.m.	Javiera Caballero
8:05 p.m.	Break
8:10 p.m.	Sheila Arias

Mayor Schewel welcomed each candidate, appreciated their interest in the vacancy and described the process.

Council questioned the candidates with a variety of topics that included: telling about a time in his/her life when they did something that they were not proud of, what was learned and how was the situation repaired; when did candidate achieve something that they worked hard for, were proud of and did not receive credit for it; how to describe implicit bias, how to address the issue and how to work to remove it from decision-making; what was each candidates government and leadership philosophy; what was the candidate willing to raise taxes for; how the candidate would work toward a plan of action and initiating affordable housing opportunities; and to address two rezoning requests and where the Council voted appropriately, where they did not and explain his or her rationale.

PILAR ROCHA-GOLDBERG

Ms. Rocha-Goldberg introduced self as Executive Director of Centro Hispano and spoke to her background and outreach in the Hispanic community of Durham; spoke to her experience with domestic violence; her experiences at Columbia University; importance of gathering differing viewpoints and awareness of biases; explained time when she had to lay-off staff persons; addressed her motivations for running for political office; and spoke to her efforts in opening the Workers Center for day workers; addressed concerns about public safety protocols and building

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relationships with law enforcement; and explained the city made the right decision regarding Publix grocery store and disagreed with the decision made on the Fearington Road/Rt 54 rezoning due to not demanding affordable housing units.

KAAREN HALDEMAN

Ms. Haldeman introduced herself, spoke to her community work and civil rights protection and gun violence protection; worked with Moms Demand Action; explained she was a northern, white woman who worked with southern Black/African Americans; intended to continue to confront bias with cross cultural conversations and experiential insider-ness; advocate of racial, health disparities and safe homes; believed activism was essential to governance at local and state levels; emphasized need to determine alternative ways to raise revenues for schools and for those left out of Durham's prosperity; and explained that the city made right decision regarding Publix grocery store and disagreed with the decision in East Durham /Kent Street rezoning.

Council commenced a break at 6:42 pm; and resumed the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

PIERCE FREELON

Mr. Freelon spoke to his background as a Durhamite, born and raised; professor, musician, web producer and founder of youth training center called Black Space and Poetic Justice; favored an intergenerational dialogue with love, empathy and proactivity; supported raising taxes to allot funds to affordable housing and leveraging city resources used for policing in favor of youth engagement, job training and economic development; spoke to protecting underserved black, Latinx, LGBTQ and homeless; urged combatting poverty with universal base income; and explained that the city made the right decision regarding the Golden Belt historic rezoning v. Rescue Mission and disagreed with decision in Fearington Road affordable housing rezoning due to not committing to affordable housing goals in future transit stop areas.

Council commenced a break at 7:36 pm; and resumed the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

JAVIERA CABALLERO

Ms. Caballero summarized her background as PTA President, immigrant activist, program coordinator and former teacher; was cared for in Durham and motivated her family to stay and serve the community; described lessons learned as a parent, activist and employment specialist; explained how the city could support public schools by funding Pre-K, nurses, financial literacy and mental health services; favored affordable housing, grassroots conversations, community policing and small loan programs; explained the city made the correct decision regarding Publix in North Durham and the wrong decision in the Fearington Road/Pulte Development since the project did not fit the neighborhood; and addressed implicit bias, self-oppression and culture identity to address poverty.

Council commenced a break at 8:21 pm; and resumed the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

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SHEILA ARIAS

Ms. Arias spoke to her background as a Head Start employee, single-parent of two, one being a special needs child and local activist; chaperoned on trip for immigrant youth rally in Washington, DC; managed stress by venturing to the mountains and unplugging from social media; explained the city made the wrong decision the construction of Mangum Street development due to the homes not being affordable and agreed with the city about its decision to oppose Publix due to traffic concerns; spoke to her experiences dealing with discrimination; urged education and cultural tolerance to counteract implicit bias; would address homeless prevention and economic development by discussing issues at the grassroots level and urged meeting people where they are in Latinx and LGBTQ communities.

Mayor Schewel explained to each candidate that Council would meet at 5 pm at the Special Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2018 to make their final decision on the candidate to fill the At-Large Council vacancy.

Council adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Diana Schreiber
Acting City Clerk